

SENATE BILL 861
By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, relative to education of inmates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-21-207, is amended by adding the following as new subsection (c):

(c) All first term inmates or second term inmates, as defined in § 41-21-502, sentenced to three (3) or more years of incarceration after June 30, 2005, who do not have a high school diploma or a general educational development diploma (GED), shall attend, while incarcerated, GED examination preparation classes, unless the division of rehabilitative services certifies to the warden of the facility where the inmate is incarcerated that, due to an inmate's disability, it is not in the best interest of such inmate's rehabilitation to require attendance in GED classes. Inmates required to participate in GED classes shall attend such classes for three (3) years or until receipt of a general education development diploma. Inmates who have not received a diploma after three (3) years of attendance of GED classes may voluntarily continue in GED classes subject to space availability.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.